

Jordan's water supply increased

AMMAN (J.T.) — The large quantities of rain which fell throughout the country this season have increased the country's storage of water for irrigation and drinking and also raise hopes for a good harvest this year, Jordanian officials said. The Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ) President Mohammad Saleh Al Kellani told the Jordan Television on Wednesday that the water level has increased in the wells and water basins and that water increased by four folds since September in the springs which are a major source of drinking water. He added that the rain for this season will help the WAJ achieve its goals for this year. The rains also benefited the storage at artesian wells used for irrigation by farmers, he added. Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) President Munther Haddadin also said that the rain which fell this season has raised the dam's storage of water by four folds.

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جريدة الأردن تطبع يومياً باللغتين العربية والإنجليزية

Crown Prince pays condolences

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Wednesday paid his condolences in two separate visits to the families of the late Sa'ad Ahmad Jamous and the late Norair Butros Sarkis Karakastan who were killed during the aborted hijack attempt on an Iraqi airliner on Dec. 25. The two Jordanian victims were flown to Amman from Iraq on Monday, 10 days after the Iraqi Airways Boeing 737 crashed near the runway of Arar Airport in Saudi Arabia. 67 passengers including 2 hijackers were killed during the hijack attempt and subsequent crash. All the injured passengers and the remains of the victims were sent to Baghdad upon Iraq's request.

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Moscow in new call for Mideast conference

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Union Wednesday called again for a new international conference to discuss ways towards a peace settlement in the Middle East. Yuri Vorontsov, a first deputy foreign minister, told a news conference that any discussions of a peace settlement in the area must involve representatives from the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel. Mr. Vorontsov also delivered a Foreign Ministry statement welcoming moves by the United Nations to set up a preparatory committee to consider calling a peace conference.

1 killed in Beirut 'camps war'

BEIRUT (R) — One person was killed and five were wounded in battles between Shi'ite Muslim Amal militiamen and Palestinian commandos around Beirut refugee camps, security sources said. The sound of mortar explosions echoed across the Lebanese capital and fighters exchanged artillery and rocket fire in the alleyways around the Palestinian camps of Bourj Al Barajneh and Shatila. At least 700 people have been killed in three months of battles for control of five Palestinian camps.

'Gulf states could not deter attack'

CAIRO (R) — The combined forces of Gulf Arab states could not deter an attack on the region but could only absorb a first strike, Osman's head of state, Sultan Qaboos Ibn Said, said in an interview published Wednesday. "Frankly, it will be an exaggeration if I say that the abilities of Gulf states are enough to deter impending or possible dangers. It would be enough at this stage to be able with our own resources to absorb the first strike," he told the editor of the Cairo weekly Al Muzzawar.

Brunei funds for contras 'misled'

NEW YORK (R) — The U.S. State Department has lost track of \$10 million solicited from the Sultan of Brunei for non-lethal aid to Nicaraguan rebels and has no idea how the money was spent, the New York Times reported Wednesday. The newspaper, quoting what it said was a secret Senate report, said some congressional investigators believe the money may have been used to underwrite arms sales to Iran or to buy weapons for the rebels, known as contras. Sultan Sir Muda Hassanal Bolkiah of Brunei was told the money would be used for humanitarian assistance, the Times said.

Mozambican rebels kill 8, kidnap others

MAPUTO (R) — Mozambican rebels killed eight people, kidnapped several others and wrecked an electricity generator and a hospital in an attack on the northern town of Monapo on Friday, Mozambique's official news agency AIM said.

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2 more SLA militiamen killed in clashes as rockets hit Israeli town

TEL AVIV (AP) — Two Israel-allied militiamen were killed Wednesday and three others were wounded when unidentified commandos attacked two militia positions in South Lebanon, while several rockets hit Israeli settlements in the north, reports from Israel said.

The deaths brought to 13 the number of militiamen of the South Lebanon Army (SLA) killed in week-long attacks.

Israeli sources said an unspecified number of militiamen were taken captive in Wednesday's attack.

The attacks took place at Jabal Safi north of the Israeli-designed security zone, a 10-to-16 kilometre-wide area controlled by the estimated 1,500 men of the South Lebanon Army backed by about 1,000 Israeli soldiers.

The militia is also stationed around the area of the Christian town of Jezzine, 20 kilometres north of the security zone, where the latest attack occurred.

The Israeli sources said the two militia positions were defended by up to 20 militiamen. Dozens of attackers stormed the fortifications but failed to overrun them, the sources claimed.

Speaking on condition of

anonymity.

On Tuesday, Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin pledged Israeli support for the South Lebanon Army militia, describing it as an integral part of Israel's security strategy.

In another development, several Soviet-designed Katyusha rockets were fired from South Lebanon into northern Israel, the military command said.

In Cairo, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) said Wednesday its commandos conducted a search operation after four Israeli-allied Lebanese militiamen were killed in a commando bombing.

Lebanese sources claimed a second Israeli air raid took place Monday on positions of Hizbullah, or Party of God, on the northern Galilee.

"All the rockets hit their targets and fires were seen in the area while the enemy suffered a number of wounded."

A rocket fired from southern

Lebanon Tuesday night damaged a building in Israel but military censors did not allow reporters to give the location or nature of the building for security reasons.

The 122mm rockets caused only slight damage, said an Israeli military source who spoke on condition of anonymity. The Israeli army fired back at the presumed launching positions, he said.

It was the first Katyusha attack since Nov. 18 when several such rockets were fired into northern Israel.

The rocketing followed stepped-up commando attacks against Israeli forces and their allies in South Lebanon over the past week.

On Sunday Israeli helicopter gunships strafed positions of Iranian-backed Shi'ite Muslim militias, killing at least three people. On Monday Israeli troops conducted a search operation after four Israeli-allied Lebanese militiamen were killed in a commando bombing.

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A rocket fired from southern

Chamoun escapes car bomb attack; 3 guards, 4 pedestrians die in blast

BEIRUT (R) — Former President Camille Chamoun, a hardline opponent of Syrian influence in Lebanon, escaped a car bomb attack in mainly Christian east Beirut Wednesday which killed seven people, police said.

Mr. Chamoun, 86, was slightly wounded in the hand by a 75-kilogramme bomb detonated by remote control as his four-vehicle motorcade passed through the Nahr district.

The blast missed Mr. Chamoun's armoured black Mercedes at the head of the convoy, but caught the second car, instantly killing three of his bodyguards.

Four passers-by were also killed and 40 people injured, police said, with a number apparently badly hurt.

Mr. Chamoun, finance and housing minister in Lebanon's "national unity" government, has now survived five attempts on his life during a long political career. He was president from 1952 to 1958.

French jets 'knock out' Libyan radar in Chad

PARIS (R) — French air force planes in Chad "knocked out" Libyan radar installations Wednesday at Ouadi Doum north of the 16th parallel dividing line, the Defence Ministry announced.

A terse communiqué reported the response following a Libyan bombing raid south of the "red line" last Sunday which Chad said had killed four people but which French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac Tuesday night compared to "an insect bite."

The communiqué said the French deterrent force "struck down" on Jan. 7 neutralised radar installations at the Ouadi Doum military base in northern Chad occupied by Libyan forces.

Ouadi Doum was previously bombed by French aircraft last Feb. 15, before the recent new flareup in Chad.

The French-backed army of President Hissene Habre is trying to drive Libyan forces from the north of the country with the aid of former Libyan-supported rebels.

A Soviet-built bomber, said by the French to be Libyan but which Tripoli claimed was piloted by

No group immediately claimed responsibility for the latest attack.

"Criminals have tried for the fourth or fifth time to assassinate me and kill innocent people, but they have failed," the white-haired Chamoun told Falangist Voice of Lebanon radio.

"God and our lady protected me."

He spoke before his discharge from east Beirut's Hotel Dieu Hospital, where he was treated for the hand wound and visited by current President Amin Gemayel.

Mr. Chamoun said he had been planning to see Mr. Gemayel later in the day to express approval of a new year speech in which Mr. Gemayel appealed for national unity and said the only hope of ending 12 years of civil war lay in guaranteeing the rights of Lebanon's various religious communities.

Over the past few days emissaries from Mr. Gemayel have been discussing a possible reconciliation meeting with Syrian leader Hafez Al Assad in

(Continued on page 3)

TOKYO (Agencies) — A Japanese oil tanker was hit by an Iranian missile in the Gulf Tuesday in the first Iranian attack on a Japanese vessel in the six-year-old Gulf war, shipping sources said here Wednesday.

The sources said the attack was the first by Iran on a Japanese-registered vessel.

The attack prompted speculation that Iran may have decided to attack foreign ships calling at Kuwait, the sources said.

But they added the attack might well have been a mistake in view of good diplomatic relations between Japan and Iran.

No injuries were reported and the 238,770 tonne tanker, built last year, is now sailing out of the strategic水way, they said.

Kahn Kaisha Company and on charter for Cosmo Oil of Japan, the sources said. It left Kuwait on Sunday after loading oil there.

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Officials in Peking said Chinese border guards made "forceful counter-attacks" against Vietnamese troops in the past few days but gave no casualty figures.

Vietnamese Radio, monitored here Tuesday, said Hanoi's troops decimated a Chinese army division which tried to seize four hills in Vietnam's northeastern

Hai Phong province on Monday.

Hanoi said almost 500 Chinese

Two leaders have been at odds for a year since Mr. Gemayel rejected a Syrian-backed peace pact for Lebanon signed by the country's main Falangist and opposition militias.

The pact, bitterly opposed by Mr. Chamoun, would have re-distributed political power at the expense of the Falangists and enshrined a greater Syrian role in Lebanese affairs.

Wednesday's car bomb was the first in Lebanon this year. Some 185 people were killed in such attacks in 1986.

A mushroom cloud of white smoke rose a moment before the dull explosion shook buildings several kilometres away, a witness said. Black smoke then curled over rooftops as crowds gathered, gazing towards the scene of the blast.

Scores of Lebanese army soldiers and Falangist militiamen sealed off the area.

About a dozen cars were set

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Iranian gunboat hits Japanese tanker in Gulf

were killed and the attacks in Vi Xuyen district were quickly repulsed.

Diplomats said they could not confirm Hanoi's casualty figures and Chinese officials dismissed them as boasting.

The diplomats said both sides tended to exaggerate reports of border fighting.

There have been frequent clashes between them since China thrust briefly into six Vietnamese border provinces in 1979 to punish Hanoi for overrunning Kampuchea the previous year.

The congressional session opened with both houses under control of the opposition

(Continued on page 3)

BAKU (R) — Gulf Arab countries pledged Wednesday to work for the success of an Islamic summit due to be held in Kuwait this month, but a senior Iranian envoy said Tehran expected the meeting to be called off.

Iran wants the 46-member Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) to postpone the Jan. 26 meeting and change its venue, saying Kuwait is not neutral in the Iran-Iraq war and its proximity to the battlefield makes it a dangerous place.

Some of those camps were occupied by Israel during the 1967 Middle East war.

The UNRWA budget for Palestinian refugee camps in the occupied territories and the Arab world was \$191 million in 1984.

Despite a 5 per cent increase in funding from 1985, this figure was still \$14 million short of the minimum budget requirements, according to figures provided by agency Commissioner-General Giorgio Giacomelli last year.

With more than 2 million refugees throughout the Middle East, the budget allows for less than \$90 per person per year.

Democrats have called on Mr. Reagan to sit down with them to discuss a budget that would lower the deficit and make possible a balanced budget.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan is sworn in as the Regent prior to His Majesty King Hussein's departure to Baghdad Wednesday (Petra photo)

King Hussein arrives in Baghdad

BAGHDAD (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein arrived in Baghdad Wednesday evening for a visit to Iraq and talks with President Saddam Hussein.

Upon his arrival, the King was seen off by His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, the King's personal representative.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra said that the visit was within the framework of consultation and coordination between the leaderships of Jordan and Iraq on

senior officials and high ranking army officers.

The King is accompanied by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Chief of the Royal Court Marwan Al Qasem, Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Gen. Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker and Iraq's Ambassador to Jordan Jassem Ghafel Jassem Hussein.

Before the King's departure Prince Hassan was sworn in as the Regent.

Petra gave no further details on Mr. Murphy's audience with the King which included a working luncheon.

The talks were attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid, Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker.

On the American side, U.S. Ambassador to Jordan Paul Boeker and members of the delegation accompanying the U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Middle East and Near East Affairs attended.

Earlier on Wednesday, Mr. Rifai and the U.S. envoy held a round of talks that lasted nearly three hours at the Prime Ministry.

Contents of the talks were not known, but the meeting was attended by Mr. Qasem and Mr. Boeker.

A source close to the talks was quoted by the Associated Press as saying there was "a good atmosphere" at the two-hour meeting between the King and

(Continued on page 3)

Petrol bomb thrown at Israeli guard in Jenin

TEL AVIV (R) — A petrol bomb was thrown at an Israeli guard in a bus parking place in Jenin on the occupied West Bank, security sources have said. It ignited but caused no damage or injuries. Security forces conducted searches in the area and detained several residents, the sources said.

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Khartoum wants new basis for ties with Cairo

CAIRO (R) — A Sudanese cabinet minister said after talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak Wednesday that Khartoum had a genuine desire to boost relations with Cairo, after two years of coolness.

But Industry Minister Mubarak Al Mahdi appeared to rule out a visit to Egypt by Prime Minister Sadiq Al Mahdi until the Nile basin neighbours have signed a proposed "brotherhood charter," to replace a 1982 integration pact advocated by Sudan in 1985.

Calling his two hours of talks with Mr. Mubarak "frank," the minister told reporters he had conveyed the Khartoum government's "strong desire to deepen relations on a sound basis and to lay down a framework and a working formula for Egyptian-Sudanese ties."

The minister, the first of Prime Minister Mahdi's Umma Party to pay an official visit to Egypt since the present coalition government took office in Khartoum last May, said he had also delivered a message from Mr. Mahdi to Mr. Mubarak.

"The message deals with the course of relations and the planning for their future and how to put them in a correct context which overcomes problems of the past," he said.

Historic ties between the two countries have been strained since

Egyptian ally Jaafar Numeiri was ousted from the presidency of Sudan in 1984 coup.

Mr. Mubarak granted Mr. Numeiri asylum and rejected repeated appeals from Khartoum for his extradition to stand trial on corruption and other charges.

Khartoum responded by abrogating the 1982 pact, once envisaged as a prelude to union, saying it had been concluded in the absence of democracy and popular participation in Sudan.

Ties were also strained by an improvement in links between Sudan and Libya — at sharp political odds with Egypt since the 1970s — and calls by some Sudanese politicians for the renegotiation of a key 1959 agreement governing the use of Nile waters by Egypt and Sudan.

The objective now is that we should work together to study the previous experience and lay down a new framework to be presented to the two governments to ratify and replace what has been frozen," the Sudanese minister said. He arrived Monday on a four-day visit.

Press institute denounces Israel

LONDON (AP) — The International Press Institute has condemned the Israeli government for expelling the editor of the Arabic-language Al Shab newspaper in Jerusalem.

Akram Haniyeh, 33, was deported Dec. 28 following accusations that he was a top official of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Mr. Haniyeh denied the accusations that he was a top official of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Peter Galifian, director of the International Press Institute, which had taken up Mr. Haniyeh's case with the Israeli government, called his deportation a "deplorable" act.

O'Connor says Mideast trip was a success despite early controversy

ROME (AP) — Cardinal John O'Connor has termed his Middle East tour a success despite controversy over scheduled meetings with Israeli officials in occupied Jerusalem, and said he had not received any criticism from Vatican officials.

At first, he cracked, he did not know whether he would be greeted in Israel with "blitzes or bullets" because he had cancelled the meetings. But later, a face-saving compromise was worked out.

Cardinal O'Connor, the Roman Catholic archbishop of New York, noted the publicity surrounding the incident and said it was a positive development because it served to put the differences

between the Vatican and Israel out in the open.

"I have yet to hear from the Holy See the slightest evidence of displeasure," Cardinal O'Connor told a news conference on Tuesday.

He said he expected to meet with Pope John Paul II before leaving for New York on Saturday and would brief the Pope on his visit to Israel and Jordan.

The cardinal admitted "I failed to do my homework" when he agreed to meet with Israeli officials in their Jerusalem offices. The Vatican asked Cardinal O'Connor to cancel the meetings because the Holy See, like most of the rest of the world, does not recognise the city as Israel's

capital. The cardinal compiled.

But later, in a compromise, the prelate agreed to meet with Israeli President Chaim Herzog at his official residence.

He said that he had met Archbishop Achille Silvestri, the Vatican foreign minister, at a mass earlier Tuesday at St. Peter's Basilica.

The cardinal said the Vatican gives de facto recognition to Israel but that three problems prevent full diplomatic relations.

He listed these as differences over Jerusalem, the Palestinian question and concern by the Holy See that such an action could lead to the "persecution" of Christian minorities in "some Arab countries."

Summary 17:30 Financial News: Look Ahead 11:30 Body Talk 12:30 News summary followed by Bing and Friends 12:30 King Street Junior 13:00 World News 13:00 News about 13:15 News 13:15 Al-Jazeera English 13:30 Assignment 14:00 Radio News 14:15 Multirack 2 Top 20 14:45 Sports Round-up 15:00 World News 15:00 24 Hour News Summary 15:30 Network UK 15:45 Patrick Martin's Music Box

BBC WORLD SERVICE 639, 720, 1323 KHz

Review 06:30 Classical Record

Financial News 07:00 World News 07:45

24 Hours: News Summary 07:30

People's Choice 07:45 The World Today

08:00 Newsdesk 08:30 Masterpiece in Miniature 08:45 The Farming World

09:00 World News 09:45 24 Hours:

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Home news

Thought forum to discuss plan of action for 1987

AMMAN (Petra) — The Arab Thought Forum (ATF) will open a meeting in Amman on Jan. 10 under the chairmanship of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan to discuss the forum's plan of action for 1987. The Arab Thought Forum's board consists of 17 members including the Crown Prince.

According to an announcement issued in Amman on Wednesday, the board will hold a symposium on Jan. 11 at the Amman Plaza hotel to review alternative policies for dealing with the Arab countries' foreign debts. Finance Minister Hanna Odeh and

Minister of Planning Taher Kanaan are among 40 participants invited to take part in the two-day symposium.

The participants will discuss four working papers dealing with the Arab World's foreign debts, the United Nations attitude with regard to such debts, means of protecting Arab investments and the plight of Arab capital.

The symposium is in implementation of recommendations taken by the Arab Thought Forum at its meeting in Amman during April of 1986.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Majali receives Arab interior official

AMMAN (Petra) — Public Security Department (PSD) Director Lieutenant-General Abdul Hadi Al Majali on Wednesday received the secretary general of the Arab Interior Ministers Council Akram Nashaat who arrived here on Tuesday for a several day visit to Jordan at the invitation of Lt.-Gen. Majali. During the meeting, they discussed scopes of cooperation between the PSD and the council's secretariat as well as coordination and the exchange of information. Dr. Nashaat then paid a visit to the Mubajirin police station where he was briefed on the station's duties and sections.

Hamzeh leaves for Baghdad

AMMAN (Petra) — Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh left for Baghdad on Wednesday to take part in the meetings of the executive bureau of the Arab Health Ministers Council which will open Thursday in the Iraqi capital. The council will discuss health cooperation between Arab countries as well as an agenda for the forthcoming meeting of Arab health ministers, scheduled to be held in Khartoum, Sudan, in March.

Georgetown team visits Yarmouk

IRBD (Petra) — The dean of student affairs at Yarmouk University, Dr. Khaled Al Omari, on Wednesday briefed a visiting delegation from Georgetown University on Yarmouk University's stages of development, its educational policy and its future programmes. The delegation also made a tour of the university campus.

Mu'ta, Glasgow review cooperation

KARAK (Petra) — Mu'ta University President Ali Mahafzah on Wednesday received Dr. David Sharp from Glasgow University in Scotland and a delegation accompanying him. During the meeting, the two sides discussed cooperation between the two universities in the fields of developing educational and technical expertise at the two universities.

Zarqa Municipality awards library tender

ZARQA (Petra) — Zarqa Municipality has awarded contract to a local company for the construction of a public library and a multi-purpose hall at the cost of JD 176,500. The project is to be carried out on a four-dunum plot of land in the city, according to a municipality spokesman. He said that the municipality is studying a tender for installing traffic lights in Zarqa and has appointed a committee to study bids for the project.

King receives Murphy

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. Murphy and the meeting at the Prime Ministry. However, the source said, the Jordanian side complained about the recently revealed U.S. arms sales to Iran, which the King had previously called "shocking," the AP further reported.

Mr. Murphy is expected to brief the press today on the outcome of his talks here before leaving for Israel, the second leg of his current swing in the Middle East which will also take him to Egypt, one U.S. embassy official told the Jordan Times.

The U.S. envoy said upon arrival in Amman that his visit to the region was aimed at exploring new paths towards reactivating the stalled peace process in the Middle East.

However, State Department officials were quoted as ruling out that Mr. Murphy might be carrying any new U.S. initiatives geared to revive peace efforts to arrive at a negotiated settlement in the region.

GCC backs OIC summit

(Continued from page 1)

highest level. Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Jafar Mohallati arrived in Turkey Wednesday to seek support for his country's views prior to the Islamic summit due to be held in Kuwait later this month, a Turkish Foreign Ministry official said.

Sheikh Sabah said the GCC foreign ministers at their two-day meeting in Riyadh stressed the importance of holding the summit in Kuwait as planned and expressed the hope that all Islamic countries would attend at the

Queen chairs discussions on project to train women in community development

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor on Wednesday chaired a meeting at the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) to discuss the launching of the foundation's pilot community development project on training programmes for women in community development and management.

The aim of this three and a half year project is to contribute towards attaining better social and living conditions for disadvantaged urban and rural women in the middle age bracket. The project also aims at increasing the institutional capabilities of the General Federation of Jordanian Women (GFJW) to develop, implement and manage locally-based family life and income generating programmes for women in a manner which would ensure their increased participation in Jordan's development schemes.

The Queen addressed the participants at the outset of the meeting, thanking the different agencies which are cooperating in implementing this pioneer project which is Jordan's first national community development programme for women, to be carried out with the coordination of public and private sectors in the Kingdom.

The Queen stressed that the key idea of this project is to activate and build upon the project aimed at raising the living standard of Jordanian women in a manner that would contribute to the human development of their family and the socio-economic development of their community and country.

The director general of the Noor Al Hussein Foundation, Mrs. In'am Al Mutti, noted that the idea of this project was crystallised in Mexico City in 1984 when the Queen addressed a population conference held there.

Health Ministry requests curb on scholarships

AMMAN (Petra) — The Health Ministry has requested the Ministry of Higher Education to refrain from offering students scholarships to study medicine because the country has a surplus of doctors and physicians. Training students in medical fields can only complicate the Kingdom's unemployment problem since many of the newly-graduated doctors are without employment at present, the Ministry of Health said.

However, the request made it clear that Jordan is still in need of certain specialists in some fields of medicine, such as food analysis, drug control, mental therapy, pathology, nuclear therapy, kidney diseases, tumour-affiliated diseases, neurology, blood diseases and plastic surgery.



Her Majesty Queen Noor chairs a meeting of the Noor Al Hussein Foundation to discuss a pilot programme to train women in community development. The director general of the foundation, Mrs. In'am Al Mutti, addresses the participants of the meeting held on Wednesday. (Petra photo)

The Queen expressed her keen wish that women of low-income families and living in rural areas be trained and given more chances to take part in the development of their homes, communities and society.

Mrs. Mutti also noted that with protective total beneficiaries of 750 local disadvantaged women, the project will enable more women in Jordan to achieve personal and professional fulfilment. This, she added, will eventually have a positive impact on all members of society.

Speakers during the meeting also included director of the project, Mrs. Salwa Al Masri, and coordinator of the project, Dr. Eideh Al Mutlaq, who briefed the meeting on the project and its work plan.

Director of the department of women at the Ministry of Labour and Social Development, Mrs. Rabia Dabbagh, and GFJW President Mrs. Haifa Al Bashir also briefed the meeting on their organisations' roles in implementing the project.

WAJ awards hydraulic analysis, testing contract

By Elia Nasrallah
Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — The Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ) has awarded a JD 414,362 contract to a consortium of three companies which will conduct a hydraulic analysis and test water networks within the Greater Amman region.

The French company Sogreah, in cooperation with the British firm WSC and a local firm, Jouzeh and Company, will carry out the project in 18 months, according to a WAJ spokesman. He said that the work will pave the way for modernising the water network by replacing old and faulty pipes with new ones.

The three companies will employ electronics and computers to determine parts of the networks to be replaced and will also test pipes for leakage, according to WAJ Director Mohammad Saleh Al Keilani who signed the contract with representatives of the three companies.

The project will be a first stage since WAJ will carry out similar ones in other parts of the Kingdom, the Keilani noted.

Mr. Keilani said that WAJ is at the same time carrying out a project which will enable WAJ technicians and staff to automatically control all water resources and also wastewater drainage and sewerage operations in the Kingdom.

This project, he said, is bound to improve the process of supplying water and draining away wastewater from homes.

Chamoun survives car bomb attack

(Continued from page 1)

In his statement to the press at Marka airport, Mr. Murphy dismissed the concept of forming a preparatory committee as a prelude for an international conference as "not a very attractive proposition."

"For us the preparatory committee is not a very attractive proposition. So we will be discussing the peace process overall but we don't have much interest in a preparatory committee as such," he told reporters.

The idea of a preparatory committee was first floated by the Soviet Union and France during a visit to Moscow last year by French President Francois Mitterrand. Subsequently, when the then Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres visited Egypt last November for a summit with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak both leaders said they agreed on such a preparatory body to pave the way for an international conference.

Mr. Murphy is expected to brief the press today on the outcome of his talks here before leaving for Israel, the second leg of his current swing in the Middle East which will also take him to Egypt, one U.S. embassy official told the Jordan Times.

The U.S. envoy said upon arrival in Amman that his visit to the region was aimed at exploring new paths towards reactivating the stalled peace process in the Middle East.

However, State Department officials were quoted as ruling out that Mr. Murphy might be carrying any new U.S. initiatives geared to revive peace efforts to arrive at a negotiated settlement in the region.

Army bomb disposal expert Youssef Bitar said the bomb, rigged in a blue Peugeot 504 Saloon, was set off by remote control. Fragments of the car were embedded in walls up to 500 metres away.

Smaller explosions followed the main blast as ammunition blew up in the wrecked car of Mr. Chamoun's bodyguards. People ducked for cover as it went up in a damaged vehicle.

The latest surge of fighting could be a Chinese reminder to Hanoi that it stands by that promise, diplomats said.

Hanoi says China has fired more than a million rockets, mortar bombs and artillery shells into its territory since 1985.

In the first casualty figures given by China, the agency said the guards had "wiped out 200 Vietnamese troops" by about 7 a.m. on Monday.

It added that a Vietnamese

company was "annihilated" Wednesday morning.

Earlier Wednesday Peking disputed Hanoi's claim that more than 500 Chinese soldiers were killed in the fighting on their rugged mountain frontier.

A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman told a news conference the casualty figures announced by Hanoi were rumours to deceive the Vietnamese people and world opinion.

But he warned that China was closely watching developments on the border.

China, Vietnam renew border fighting

(Continued from page 1)

Kampuchea guerrilla leader Norodom Sihanouk says he has Peking's word that it will bleed Vietnam white until it pulls 140,000 troops out of his homeland.

The latest surge of fighting could be a Chinese reminder to Hanoi that it stands by that promise, diplomats said.

Hanoi says China has fired more than a million rockets, mortar bombs and artillery shells into its territory since 1985.

The official New China News Agency reported from the

Yunnan province border that the Vietnamese had launched a dozen attacks on Chinese positions in the Laoshan area between early Monday and Wednesday morning.

It quoted military sources as saying the frontier guards had "repulsed repeated armed provocations by Vietnamese troops in the past few days."

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It added that a Vietnamese

company was "annihilated" Wednesday morning.

The Defence Ministry gave no details of Wednesday's operation beyond identifying the raiders as being from the "Epervier" (sparrow-hawk) deterrent force of 1,200 men. Jaguar fighter-bombers and anti-aircraft missiles based in N'djamea.

Radio France Internationale said the attack on the radar installations was spearheaded by four Jaguars.

Sources at the French presidential palace said the decision to reply to the Libyan air raid on the town of Arada south of the 16th parallel was taken at a meeting on Monday of President Francois Mitterrand, Mr. Chirac and Defence Minister Andre Giraud.

The French retaliation came as Chad was tightening its hold on recently-captured positions in

northern region controlled by the Libyans for the past three years.

Libya says it has only several hundred men in Chad, while France estimates Tripoli's strength there at around 8,000.

Mr. Chirac and Mr. Mitterrand have both voiced political support for the Chad offensive in the north, but the French have ruled out any intervention by the French army north of the 16th parallel.

Mr. Chirac appeared to strike a new note in his broadcast Tuesday night by playing down the importance of the 16th parallel as an idea "that does not exist."

"It is out of the question for us to accept that the 16th parallel should be a kind of division of Chad," he said, adding that the red line merely marked the area whose integrity was guaranteed by France.

That represents a major turnaround for a country that had only one four-year secondary school immediately after World War II. There are now three universities, two with medical schools and, in addition, an estimated 60,000 to 100,000

Education Ministry prepares comprehensive campaign to eradicate illiteracy by 2000

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Education has prepared a comprehensive campaign to eradicate illiteracy in Jordan by the end of the 20th century and the plan envisages providing education to some 300,000 illiterate people living largely in the rural regions, according to Mr. Abdul Karim Al Simadi, head of the illiteracy section at the Ministry of Education.

In a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, on the eve of the Arab Day for the Eradication of Illiteracy which falls on Thursday, Mr. Simadi said that Jordan has to solve the problem of illiteracy as it impedes the Kingdom's development projects. He said that a survey conducted in 1979 revealed that 34.6 per cent of the total population above 15 years of age were illiterate. Estimating a drop of one percent annually, the present rate should now stand at 28 per cent, he said. This means that 352,500 people are still illiterate and of this number, two thirds are female.

The programme for providing education to adults and illiterate people has been going on in all provinces through departments of education and with the help of information media campaigns, lectures, documentaries and cultural programmes and by providing material and moral support for those excelling in their courses, Mr. Simadi continued.

The Ministry of Education has opened 700 centres for adult education in the past year, of which 113 were assigned for males and the rest for females, and at least 12,000 people, mostly women, attended classes and benefited from this form of education, Mr. Simadi pointed

out.

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In Mafrat, a ceremony was held on Wednesday on the eve of the Arab Day for the Eradication of Illiteracy.

British residents caught off guard by new visa charges for Jordan

By Najwa Najjar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — British residents in Jordan were caught off guard upon returning to the Kingdom after their Christmas holidays when they were asked to pay visa charges at the airport. Under the new measures, British residents now have to pay visa fees and visa fees for all Britons have been increased. The new measures came into effect on Jan. 1, 1987.

Mr. Faisal Al Hmoud, director of the consular section at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said: "Jordan was taking reciprocal action to the recent increases of visa fees in the United Kingdom."

Mr. Al Hmoud explained that the British government sent out a circular to all its embassies abroad informing them of the increase in visa fees as of Nov. 18, 1986. All non-British nationals applying for a private, tourist, business, student, medical or re-entry visa to Britain must pay £20 or JD 10 to the British embassy in their respective countries. Those who want a multiple visa, which is valid for two years instead of one, must

pay £40 or JD 20 and applications for visas other than the ones mentioned above are £50 or JD 25. Diplomats and official delegates are exempt from these fees.

"These regulations apply to all countries, with the exception of the Soviet Union," said the vice consul of the British Embassy in Jordan, Mr. Steve Collier. The decision to raise the fees was to pay for the visa operations worldwide, added Mr. Collier.

"Just like the United Kingdom wants to benefit, we too want to benefit," said Mr. Al Hmoud. Therefore, as of Jan. 1, 1987, all Britons will be charged the same fees as those the United

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Boost to local contractors

THE Jordan Contractors Association (JCA) first-ever draft law, which was approved by the Lower House of Parliament on Tuesday, is a new step in the right direction. Complemented by other Cabinet measures taken recently and aimed at injecting life into the country's ailing contracting sector, the law should help Jordanian contractors stand on their feet once again and enable them to play their role to the full in reviving our national economy.

Until now, foreign contracting companies have been enjoying the lion's share of the market, covering almost 65 per cent of the total local tendered work.

Local companies hitherto assumed the role of a by-stander as they have been unable to compete with the majority of foreign contractors, either because they were not subsidised by our successive governments, as in the case many of their international competitors, or due to some structural, technical, professional and other reasons. In 1985 alone, the amount of JD 94.34 million was lost by the Jordanian economy to foreign contractors, thus contributing to strengthening other countries' economies, while leaving ours out in the cold.

The JCA, which has had no institutionalised framework, since it has been working under an order issued by the Ministry of Labour, has been unable to engage in the Jordanian-foreign "contracting competition war" and as such it could not possibly affect the balance in favour of the local companies.

Construction errors, violation of construction codes and commissioning made by or on behalf of a large number of Jordanian and foreign contracting companies working here passed unnoticed, and in various cases were wrapped up through personal contact. There simply was nobody to defend the client.

We look with great hope to the new law which has set "just and impartial" penalties against all those who try to beat around the bush. From now on, all Jordanian and foreign companies working in contracting here have to be members of the JCA before they can execute their projects. In addition, they will be classified into six accredited rates in accordance with their contracting capabilities and expertise.

Considering that Jordan has just launched its national development plan with an allocation of JD 220 million for construction projects in the East Bank, local companies will be given priority in executing them. Foreign contractors will only be allowed to work with Jordanian groups on a joint-venture basis and in very rare cases only, international companies will be operating on their own.

Having said this, and given all these boosts on the part of the government and the JCA to local contractors, these local public and private companies should also meet their new challenges and obligations by lowering their costs at the same time and maintaining an excellent quality of works they do. We also hope that the JCA, which seems to be extremely eager to organise and supervise the works of the local contractors, to execute the new draft law firmly. In the same breath, we call on local commercial institutions to review the process of granting fair financial arrangements for local contractors to help them meet the challenge.

We both hope and trust that the new law will help the local contracting industry in increasing its contribution to the gross national product (GNP) to more than its current 10 per cent, and in creating new job opportunities to accommodate the large majority of Jordan's contracting working force which is currently unemployed.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: No changes on the ground

RICHARD Murphy's visit to the Middle East represents the first American move in the region this year. Although the American administration did not announce any thing about the nature of the visit, observers believe it is designed to discover the impact of last year's events on this region in general and the repercussions of the U.S.-Iranian arms deal in particular. What we are certain of is that the American-Israel stand vis-a-vis the Arab-Israeli conflict and the prospects of an international conference to resolve the Palestine problem remains unchanged. Both the United States and Israel are opposed to such a conference because it would involve the presence of the Soviet Union as member of the United Nations Security Council, and both the U.S. and Israel continue to bar Europe from playing a meaningful role in the affair. For this reason, we can say that Murphy would hear from Jordanian officials the same words he heard before, underlining the importance of holding the proposed international conference and the need for involving the PLO and the Soviet Union in such a conference to ensure its success.

Al Dostour: Evil Iranian moves

IRAN's request sent to the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) for holding the forthcoming Islamic summit in a country other than Kuwait is regarded as a clear attempt to undermine the summit. This sabotage attempt, made at a time when preparations are under way for the summit, is also an evil move to weaken the Arab and Islamic ranks. This Iranian attitude is totally unacceptable to the Arabs because it tends to exercise blackmail on the Arab and Muslim nations who are now in dire need of solidarity in the face of common dangers. We are saddened indeed to hear and see certain Arab countries condoning Iran's sabotage attempts and also providing the Tehran regime with open diplomatic support. We cannot find a single reason for such support for the Iranian attempts which naturally do not serve the Arab Nation's interests. We hope that the foreign ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council countries who are meeting in Riyadh will put all their weight behind Kuwait and exert all possible efforts to rally support for the convening of the coming summit on schedule. We hope that the coming summit will find Iran totally isolated from the rest of the Islamic World.

Sawt Al Shaab: Deeds, not words, needed

RICHARD Murphy who has just embarked on a tour of the Middle East will certainly find that the United States credibility has been eroded in this region following Washington's supplies of arms to Iran and in view of its continued help for Israel's aggression on the Arab Nation. Both Israel and Iran which Washington continues to help are enemies of the Arab World, with the former mobilising all its world efforts to deprive the Palestinians of their rights and homeland and the latter turning down all offers for establishing peace with Iraq and the Arab Nation. Washington is also adamant in its position rejecting the idea of an international conference that would re-institute the rights of the Palestinian people. Murphy will certainly face this situation and an insurmountable wall of complications and problems largely emanating from Washington's refusal to listen to the Arab views and heed the Arab World's bids for a lasting peace.

The left... from a non-political point of view

By Taher Hikmat

HOW was the term "left" transferred from "hand" which is not often used by man to the world of politics?

Why has the left always symbolised troublesome and wicked things in various forms of religions and even in the beliefs of primitive tribes and societies which knew nothing of religion?

Above all, why does man use the right hand more often, and why is the right hand normally stronger than the left?

How far does the term "left" date back in man's memory and culture?

In answer to these questions, I say:

Scientists agree that the use of the left or right hand is a hereditary matter to a large extent, and they maintain that children in their early life use both hands equally well but that children at some time in their development begin to give priority to the right hand. Estimates of the rate of those who use their left hands vary from two to eight, and up to 10 per cent, but the most logical and acceptable estimate is five per cent.

It is said that in Mexico there exists a village in which the majority of the population use their left hands most of the time.

The subject of the left hand had been dwelt on since old times and it is said that the subject was dealt with by philosophers Plato and Aristotle and that it has been shrouded with many legends and non scientific explanations until recently when scientists established a link between this subject and the human brain, anatomically and physiologically. The human brain is known to be divided into left and right with the left side controlling the right part of the body and the right in control of the left side. Scientists say that whenever the left part of the brain has the upper hand in terms of volume and weight, which is most of the case, the right hand becomes more dominant and vice versa. But the question is whether the widespread use of the right hand is really due to the greater volume of the left-hand part of the brain or whether it is a result of the frequent use of the right hand only. There is no ultimate answer for the question, but it is useful to point to a new anatomical theory which appeared in 1982 and which maintains that both parts of the human brain are totally separate. But this theory does not change the former explanation in any way.

In another attempt to explain this, scientists of anthropology maintain that the first man on earth used both hands equally well, but that the priority given to the right hand came when man started making implements and tools for different purposes. However, Soviet scientists say that the priority given to the right hand is due to man's involvement in wars and struggles for existence and that the use of the right hand was hereditary and resulting from the need of protecting the left hand side of the chest which contains the heart. Protection of the heart used to take place through the employment of a shield carried by the left hand, as the right hand was free for movement and manoeuvre, and stabbing the enemy; and that the frequent use of the right hand in this manner and the relative inactivity of the left hand led to the development of the right hand as more powerful at the expense of the left.

Over the ages, this acquired character has become hereditary. But why right-handed parents produce left-handed children is something which has found no answer yet.

The use of the right hand by man was later transformed to animals and birds and scientists have noted that the chimpanzee for instance uses both hands equally well. The parrot uses the right limb more often for eating but sits on the left side while the horse uses both jaws equally well with a slight priority for the right. Scientists found out that nearly 58 percent of horses use the right limb when searching for food and stretches the right foot first to trot when not mounted by a rider, and nearly 70 percent of horses start walking with the left foot when mounted by a rider, contradicting the previous belief that horses use the left foot to start trotting if they have not been "broken". As to the cats, scientists could not give a definite explanation for their use of bands because they noticed no remarkable difference between the left and the right.

"As to man, it has been noticed that during military training the left leg is used to start the march or walk and that the body leans mostly on the right leg for rest because it is the stronger of the two and that the military instructor calls out left...right...left...right. By looking into man's literature, religion and magic it can be noticed that he had shunned the use of the left hand and that man had always thought of the left hand as the cause of evil and a devil's tail. Studies conducted on primitive tribes which inhabit the Amazon jungles and the aborigines of Australia reveal that when a witch doctor looks towards the left, he implies evil expectation and that they firmly believed that evil ghosts and evil spirits stemmed from the left hand side of the human body while the benign spirits emerge from the right. In ancient Rome, it was believed that the term sinister was derived from a word that indicated the left arm or the devil and evil.

Researchers on the Bible have come across 100 instances where



Taher Hikmat

From time immemorial, man has sought to identify the term "right" with things that are good and the term "left" with things that appear to be sinister or heralding change from the accepted way of life. How will this phenomena shape up in the future?

the right hand had been given priority over the left and that the right side meant doing good and the left indicated evil or doom. In Chapter 25 Matthew, we read: "the lamb carried by the right hand goes to heaven and the goat carried by the left hand goes to hell." In churches and during mass the priest reads the gospel which is normally laid on his right. In pre-Islamic Arabia, the term "right" used to indicate good things and optimism, while "left" indicated evil and pessimism.

The Arabs used to chase away birds moving to the right and people believed it was a source of optimism and if the birds flew to the left side. They considered this as a pessimistic sign and refrained from doing it as an intended act.

Also in pre-Islamic Arabia, priests used to throw the dice. If it moved to the right they believed that the gods were satisfied with their work and when the dice shifted to the left it was believed that the gods were furious and angry.

Old Arab literature and old sayings and proverbs are bound with instances honouring the right hand and the right side, and in Arabic, the term "right" means taking the oath. In Islam, however, the right received as much honour as in the previous era and this is quite obvious in the Holy Koran's different verses. Many studies have been conducted on the subject of preferring the right to the left in all matters connected with the Muslim's behaviour in performing prayers, entering the mosque and dealing with other worshippers etc...

Arab culture and literature and folklore all give the right hand priority over the left like placing the brave and the courageous man on the right-hand side of the leader, and the term "right" in Arabic means goodwill and blessings.

Those on the right have priority in official celebrations not only among Arabs but also in Europe where the term "right" implies goodwill and right and justice while "left" in French for example implies nuisance and instability and lack of harmony.

The whole world seems oriented towards the right because it gives preference to the right hand and for this reason all tools have been manufactured to suit the right hand. But, over the years some factories started producing instruments and tools suiting the left-handed people to make life easier for them.

It has also been noticed that parents are not happy with children using the left instead of the right hand, which in turn caused psychological difficulties for children and seriously affected their behaviour and their personalities and also caused some to become shy, undecided or awkward: for instance King George VI of Britain who was left handed. It is therefore best for parents to leave their children alone, allowing them to use their left hands if they are inclined to do that.

It was also found that the use of the left hand is normally by people who excel in mathematics and do well in sports and games like baseball and lawn tennis. The world has known hundreds of geniuses

who used their left hand all the time. These include Leonardo da Vinci and Michelangelo, the famous artists. But how did the term "left" shift to politics and is there any link between them of any kind?

Left in politics

I can only say that the employment of the term "left" in politics has nothing to do with the aforementioned ideas and is not linked with any of their roots in any way.

However, scholars of political thought believe that the term "left" emerged by coincidence in the wake of the French revolution when the revolutionary radicals who called for drastic change in the construction of the French National Assembly sat on the left hand side of the speaker while conservatives sat on the right. Later as the debate heated up and continuous uproar emerged from the left side during the sessions, the speaker used to refer to this particular group as leftists and the others as rightists. There followed a continuous development in the use of the term "left," which was adopted by the press that used to describe those with radical ideas as leftists. Traditionally the opposition began to sit on the left hand side of the speaker while, the conservatives sat on the right. This has become a tradition in European countries in particular. In modern times the term "left" has increasingly been given to groups seeking radical changes in political life.

The term "left" entered all forms of political systems, even Marxism. Marxists describe those with radical ideas as leftists and those that oppose changes as rightists. Now that communism has been established, what can be said of groups requiring radical change all the time, so as to differentiate them from the others? Lenin found the answer by giving those on the left the title of "infantile" left because, he said, this group could not perceive the nature of the revolution which could be transferred into an authority holding the reins of power in the country.

At present, following the dominance of the "old left" in many countries, the terms "right" and "left" ceased to point to specific indications.

In France and other European countries politicians are now inclined to find new names for newly developed groups with specific political orientation such as the "centre left" and "centre right" and "new leftists". In addition, the fast developing social and political life in advanced nations has brought about the emergence of extremist groups.

In the Arab World there are extremist religious groups that call for radical change in government like the leftists and even in a more violent manner, though religious groups could be traditionally classified as rightists. In some Arab countries, those groups that used to belong to the left assumed power but are now regarded to be rightists in the eyes of new leftist groups which continue to oppose the ruling junta's decisions, and constantly call for the introduction of change.

There is an old belief that all revolutions and coups d'état are leftist in nature when they are young but later they adopt rightist tendency. This is true in many of the developing nations.

Finally, I would like to point out that the desire among people for social and political change was created ever since the emergence of human settlements on earth, but this desire, tends to take different forms as a society develops; and with the emergence of new forms of government it was natural to see the emergence of opposition parties, some which work within the law and others outside it.

The desire for change for the better has been an obsession of all human societies throughout the ages; and only circumstances can determine the way in which obsession and desire can be transformed into reality. The desire for change is therefore natural in life, but the means for achieving that change is the actual political and social problems facing the world: Should change come about within the framework of the law or should the aspired change be achieved at the expense of the existing law and the existing legitimate form of government? What will be the human cost for achieving that aspired change, and would that change yield good results worthy of that cost? Should the left always be associated with tears and blood and is that inevitable? Couldn't this change be achieved at a lesser cost and without the shedding of tears or blood?

It is difficult to attempt providing answers to these questions here. But since the issue is both important and interesting, I plan to look into it further.

The above was a translation of a lecture which the writer delivered at the World Affairs Council in Amman recently. Mr. 'Ikk-nat is a prominent Jordanian lawyer who served as minister in three different cabinets.

Mozambique is fighting on all fronts

Mozambique has just lost its leader in an air crash; its economy is collapsing; its people face starvation; it suffers from droughts and floods. Victor Mallet, recently in the country, reports on the challenges facing the new president, Joaquim Chissano.

JOAQUIM CHISSANO, the Movimento Nacional da Resistência de Moçambique (MNR) leader who took over from founding President Samora Machel in November, will have his first chance to tell the world how he hopes to tackle his country's formidable problems when he holds an international news conference.

His government faces several serious challenges to its authority. Mozambique, regarded as a vital link in the chain of black-ruled nations stretching across southern Africa, is in the throes of a brutal and widespread guerrilla war and the country remains acutely vulnerable to renewed attacks from South Africa, its powerful neighbour and ideological foe.

To add to his woes, Mr. Chissano, chosen as president following the recent aeroplane crash which killed Mr. Machel, has been put in charge of an unwieldy territory well over 1,000 miles long and prone to both drought and floods. Mozambique's instability is of concern not only to Mozambicans but to other countries in the region, especially Zimbabwe. Mozambique's Indian Ocean port of Beira corridor route from Zimbabwe to the sea is the focus of international efforts to provide access to the sea for southern African trade to beat possible retaliation by Pretoria for sanctions against it.

In October, donor countries at a meeting organised by the European Economic Community pledged \$180 million towards the cost of upgrading the Beira corridor, a road, rail and oil pipeline route from Zimbabwe to the port of Beira in the south. The narrow corridor across the bush of central Mozambique is defended by more than 6,000 Zimbabwean troops. Zimbabwean Prime Minister Robert Mugabe is committed to protecting his country's lifeline and helping to defeat the rebels of



supplies, is low among the professional soldiers. Conscripts and troops by day are sometimes suspected of becoming MNR "bandits" by night to supplement their income.

Mozambique is vulnerable to economic pressure as well as to military attacks by South Africa. Much of its foreign exchange comes from remittances of Mozambican workers in South Africa and South African use of Maputo port, while the south of the country depends on South African electricity supplies.

Since the beginning of the year, when landmines planted on Maputo's main beach brought the war close to the heart of the capital, security south of the Beira corridor has improved. In the remote northern provinces of Tete, Niassa and Zambezia, however, the guerrillas have captured towns, made rural areas ungovernable and turned peasants into refugees.

Mozambican officials and foreign aid agencies accuse the conservative government of helping, or at least turning a blind eye to, the activities of the MNR. Another problem is the state of the Mozambique army. The 14,000 soldiers are backed by about 800 Soviet advisers, while Britain runs regular training course in Zimbabwe for young Mozambican officers. However, morale, sapped by a shortage of

already been unconfirmed reports of starvation. Thousands of peasants have become homeless "deslocados" fleeing their fields for the relative safety of government-controlled coastal cities or neighbouring countries, including South Africa.

Aid officials speak of people foraging in the bush for the fruit of the baobab tree, wearing gazelle skins for want of clothes and walking 130 miles to collect a government handout of dried peas.

Government vaccination programmes have been seriously affected, leaving the way open for disease to decimate the weakened refugee populations. The money economy has virtually collapsed. Bartering a shirt for a chicken or a tin of sardines for some tomatoes, or using the "candonga" — the black market — has become a way of life.

In Tete city, it is estimated that 30 per cent to 50 per cent of children under five show signs of stunting or chronic malnutrition, with 4 per cent to 5 per cent suffering acute malnutrition.

Richard Morgan of the United Nations Children's Fund said: "Both of these figures are fairly normal for rural Mozambique. But things could deteriorate very quickly in the next few months with no food aid."

The government, with crop production down and money for commercial imports severely limited, says it needs up to 500,000 tonnes of grain to make up the food shortfall for the next year. Even if it had the grain, however, it would be difficult to transport. Amos Mahanjane, director of the department responsible for dealing with natural disasters, says that the rebels have attacked and destroyed 19 trucks working on food distribution this year.

The hungry people of Mozambique, he says, "want food, and they want clothes. They are not interested in ideology. Capitalism or socialism means nothing to them" — Financial Times news feature.

Enrile sets stage for battle over constitution

By Robert H. Reid
The Associated Press

Worldwide famine could follow nuclear war, scientists say

By Vanessa Bennett
Reuters

LONDON — Even if a nuclear war causes only a slight change in the earth's climate, those who survive the devastation could still face mass famine, according to the latest speculation by scientists studying the effects of nuclear holocaust.

The scientists will put forward their ideas at an international conference in Bangkok next month, which will ponder such concepts as "nuclear winter" — an apocalyptic vision of our planet shrouded in soot and plunged into freezing darkness after a nuclear war.

The 300 scientists from 30 countries are grouped under a body known as SCOPE (Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment), an international independently-funded organisation supported by foundations and donations.

Recent media controversy over whether superpower war would plunge the world into nuclear winter, or some lesser nuclear

winter, is a false trail getting in the way of serious research, a British SCOPE scientist, Dr. Mick Kelly, told Reuters.

His argument will be one of the theories put forward at the four-day SCOPE meeting in Bangkok, starting on Feb. 9, which will look into the effects of nuclear war on individual countries.

Kelly and SCOPE Chairman Sir Frederick Warner, of Britain's Essex University, told Reuters SCOPE had found that even the slightest of the temperature changes predicted in the event of nuclear war could cause crop failures and widespread hunger.

A single night below freezing was enough to destroy rice crops, Warner said, and a four-degree drop in temperature in the growing season could obliterate the whole Canadian wheat and barley harvest.

At the moment, Warner said, only major wheat-growing countries like the United States and Canada had large stores of food.

Studies carried out over the last four years into the effects a nuclear war would have on the world climate have come out with wildly differing results.

First came the nuclear winter theory, pointing to drastic changes in the global climate after a nuclear war.

According to this theory, smoke from burning cities and woodland would stay in the earth's atmosphere as soot particles and block out the sun's light. Temperatures would drop by up to 35 Centigrade (60 Fahrenheit). If temperatures fell that far, all life would be extinguished and arctic night would settle over the planet.

Then came a nuclear autumn study published last June which said life on earth need not be destroyed by nuclear war, despite the wholesale devastation of cities and deaths from radiation.

American researchers Starley Thompson and Stephen Schneider of the National Centre for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) in Boulder, Colorado, said their model of the global climate after a

nuclear war looked "more like nuclear fall than nuclear winter."

Their results showed a temperature drop of around 10-15 degrees Centigrade (20-30 Fahrenheit) within a month of the war, with rain removing three-quarters of the smoke and soot from the atmosphere as "black rain" in the same period.

Their conclusion, widely quoted in the British press, was "on scientific grounds the global apocalyptic conclusion of the initial nuclear winter hypothesis can now be relegated to a vanishingly low level of probability."

In last autumn's issue of the U.S. magazine the National Interest, Russell Seitz, a visiting lecturer at Harvard University, denounced the nuclear winter theory as "psychic numbing" to inhibit NATO's use of nuclear weapons.

Seitz called it a "pernicious fantasy that ... attempts to transform the alliance doctrine of flexible response into a dangerous vision."

But the whole controversy over nuclear winter and nuclear autumn is meaningless, according to SCOPE's Dr. Kelly, a nuclear physicist at the University of East Anglia who also acts as a spokesman for the British group Scientists Against Nuclear Arms (SANA).

The nuclear winter theory was the most drastic of about 40 possible post-war climate changes worked out by the SCOPE tests, Kelly said.

"It is crucial to remember that nuclear winter is only one of a range of possibilities, and nuclear autumn is within that range, which goes from virtually no cooling to full-blown nuclear winter," he said.

Kelly said the Bangkok meeting would open a second phase of investigations. "We now want to start research into the effects of nuclear war on individual countries, looking at how much food is likely to be stored at different times of year ..." he said.

The Bangkok meeting will review recent tests on the effects of nuclear war.

Randa Habib's Corner

Razing the roof

NOTHING is uglier than an ugly rooftop and how ugly some of the rooftops are in town. Often, the house is beautiful and eye-catching, but on the rooftop, more often than not, there is inevitably at least one zinc water tank marring the otherwise nice appearance of the building. Even worse are some of those solar heating systems which often carry the name of the manufacturer painted in big letters so that they can be read from afar.

Television antennas are also often very whimsical. So many "Eiffel" towers and other ludicrous iron and steel structures are erected on rooftops creating a ridiculous effect.

Last, but certainly not least, are the columns of cement and steel jutting up on the roofs. Obviously, some of the landlords have plans to build another storey — one day. The messes that these rooftops represent are quite an eyesore.

In Amman Municipality, officials tell me that they have been taking a "tough" attitude towards unfinished buildings and are refusing to issue occupancy certificates before the appearance of the building has been put in order. In the suburbs of the capital things are, to say the least, not so neat, tidy and well-ordered. Steel rods, bars and concrete pillars protrude from every rooftop and no-one seems to be bothered. Why don't the concerned authorities set a deadline, say five years from the date of licence, for the completion of the building or eliminating the columns that jut out.

As for the water tanks and solar heating systems, I am sure some way can be found to accommodate them in a nicer way. Above all, it would be a pleasure to get rid of the cheap publicity symbols some carry.

Ghosts of explorers live side by side with modern Antarctica

By Philip Melchior
Reuters

If they want to travel the 32 km south to the United States' McMurdo station and New Zealand's Scott base they have to walk or ski — a journey which has taken them less than five hours or as long as five days.

Scott base, with a summer population about 100, and "Mactown" with about 1,100 people, sit on either side of observation hill crowned by a cross commemorating Scott and his party.

But in the modern Antarctic, there are few reminders of the "heroic age" other than framed photos on the wall, and, on the outskirts of bustling McMurdo, the slightly bedraggled remains of the hut that housed both Shackleton and Scott when they first came south together on Scott's 1901-04 expedition.

Stewart Guy, who is running Scott base and New Zealand's Antarctic programme for the 1986/87 season, told Reuters his major problem when the season began was to ensure base dwellers appreciated the severity of the Antarctic.

"I don't think you can prepare people for the sheer intensity of the weather," he said.

Inside the base it's a warm, cosy, more-or-less normal lifestyle. But you step out through a 50 cm wall and you're in a dangerous, unforgiving environment."

"People look at the Antarctic and the great white wastes and they get a bit starry-eyed," Guy said. "They come here expecting to enjoy the scenery and perhaps don't appreciate how hard it is to work here."

In the summer, the 24-hour sunlight is disorientating, the extreme dryness hard to endure.

Temperatures, even in McMurdo Sound can easily fall to a chill factor of 50 degrees centigrade below zero at this time of year.

Mechanical transport, first introduced unsuccessfully to the Antarctic by Shackleton, is now a necessity.

But it's still a problem. Engines can take days to thaw out if allowed to get cold, mechanics' lives can be misery by working in conditions where the simple repairs can take five times as long as they would at home.

Los Angeles electrician Marty Foss volunteered to spend a full year at the U.S. Amundsen-Scott South Pole base after seeing an advertisement in a local paper.

Divorced not long before ... "it seemed like it could be a fun thing to do," said the man who had previously never been further south than Tijuana, Mexico.

Mactown has basketball teams, aerobics classes and a radio station, but most of the entertainment on both sides of observation hill is in the bar.

But Captain Dave Srite, commander of the U.S. Navy's operation Deep Freeze in the Antarctic, regards drink as less of a problem here than in most U.S. navy bases.

And for all its difficulties, the Antarctic still holds the same fascination that brought Shackleton and Scott back after they swore they would never return.



THE operating room of the Microsurgery Institute is dubbed "eyesight recovery automated line". (Photo by P. Nosov, TASS.)

where dozens of operations are daily held.

GOOD SIGHT FOR EVERYBODY! THIS is the motto of Professor Svyatoslav Fyodorov, the head of the Moscow Scientific Research Eye Microsurgery Institute which has developed original methods of treatment for eye diseases, including grafting artificial lenses and cornea, correction of myopia and astigmatism, now used by the ophthalmologists throughout the world.

Professor Fyodorov and his co-workers travel a lot about the Soviet Union and abroad to share their unique methods with their colleagues.

More than 25,000 people leave every year the Institute happy to be rid of the blur in eyes.

Prof. Fyodorov and his colleagues often hear words of gratitude in many languages from their

former patients for the returned gift to see the world.

An associate fellow of the USSR Academy of Medical Sciences, Prof. Svyatoslav Fyodorov was one of the first doctors who was awarded the honourable title of Merited Inventor of the USSR, conferred on the authors of inventions, which open new directions in development of science and technology or which are of a special importance to the national economy. Though correcting eyesight has no apparent ties with the economy, thousands of Prof. Fyodorov's patients were able to refuse their disability pension and resume their jobs as they regained their eyesight. (Fotokhronika TASS)

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Washington Bullets post 112-97 win over Clippers

NEW YORK (AP) — Jay Vincent scored 23 points in his first regular season appearance with Washington as the Bullets posted a 112-97 victory over the Los Angeles Clippers in the National Basketball Association.

Vincent, acquired by the Bullets in an offseason trade with the Dallas Mavericks, suffered a ruptured tendon in his right ring finger in the first quarter of Washington's opening exhibition game.

He received help in leading the Bullets to Tuesday night's win from Rookie John Williams, who was shifted from forward to point guard.

"This is what we wanted to accomplish in October," coach Kevin Loughrey said of his new lineup. "But because of injuries and several other things, it did not come about."

Williams scored nine points, grabbed six rebounds and handed out five assists.

Vincent, who played 35 minutes, was happy with his first official performance in Washington.

"I think I handled myself well," Vincent said.

Vincent may be able to take some of the scoring burden off the Malones — Moses and Jeff — either of whom has led the Bullets in scoring 30 of 31 games this season.

Moses Malone led the Bullets with 27 points in 28 minutes, while Jeff Malone had 23 points and seven assists.

Michael Cage led the Clippers with 20 points and a season-high 18 rebounds.

Knicks 118, Hawks 86

New York's Gerald Wilkins with

three seconds remaining gave the Pacers their fourth straight victory.

Gilmore was called for interfering with a short jumper by Vern Fleming. Fleming's shot came after San Antonio missed three shots in the previous 30 seconds.

Steve Stipanovich led the Pacers with 19 points, while the Hawks forward had three more, but the game was never as close as the brothers' battle after halftime.

Patrick Ewing finished with 31 points to lead the Knicks to their fifth straight home game for the first time since March 1984.

Bulls 99, Cavaliers 95

Cleveland held Michael Jordan under 30 points for only the fifth time this season, but the Bulls allowed the Cavaliers one field goal in 16 shots over the game's final 8:45.

Jordan, who is averaging 37.3 points per game, finished with 27 as the Cavaliers lost their fourth straight.

Charles Oakley added 15 points and 18 rebounds for the Bulls. Rookie Ron Harper led the Cavaliers with 22.

Bucks 124, Nets 112

The Bucks beat the Nets easily, but lost guard Paul Pressey with a dislocated right ring finger. Bucks team physician Dr. David Haskell said Pressey would be out of action for at least three weeks.

Ricky Pierce scored 27 points and Terry Cummings and Craig Hodges added 24 each for the Bucks, who won their third straight. Buck Williams scored 18 points and Orlando Woolridge 16 to lead New Jersey.

Pacers 101, Spurs 99

A goaltending call against San Antonio's Artis Gilmore with

15 seconds remaining gave the

Spurs their second straight victory.

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Warriors 118, Rockets 100

Eric "Sleepy" Floyd scored 31 points and handed out 11 assists to snap the Rockets' three-game winning streak.

Floyd connected on two 3-point field goals and scored three times on 3-point plays. Joe Barry Carroll added 22 points for the Warriors, while Terry Teague and Chris Mullin, scored 21 and 15 points, respectively.

Houston was led by Lewis Lloyd with 23 points.

Kings 112, Nuggets 104

Otis Thorpe scored 27 points and grabbed 14 rebounds as Sacramento snapped a five-game losing streak. Denver forward Alex English led all scorers with 30 points.

The game was played with one

official after referee Tom Nunez fell and broke his right wrist with 7:40 to go in the first half.

Kenyans increase lead in Paris-Dakar Rally

TAMANRASSET, Algeria (AP) — Kenyans Shekar Mehta and Mike Doughty in a Peugeot 205 and France's Cyril Neveu on a Honda increased their leads in the auto and motorcycle divisions of the Paris-Dakar Rally on Tuesday's 560 kilometre Algerian stage.

Mehta again set the fastest time

across the line, and more than an hour behind Mehta.

The British team of Andrew Cowan and Johnstone Syer,

second last year, had repeated

shock absorber failures on their

Pajero, as did Du Silva and the

third team car driven by France's

Habib Riga.

Their problems let their rivals,

the Range Rover driven by

France's Raoul Raymondis and Dani Ferret, into second place overall.

Going into Niger Wednesday,

the terrain changes to much longer

sandy stretches leading into the

depths of the Sahara sand dunes,

where the conventional

four-wheel drive cars may have

greater advantages over the

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LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One sterling	1.4735/45	U.S. dollars	
One U.S. dollar	1.3728/33	Canadian dollars	
	2.9270/80	West German marks	
	2.1760/70	Dutch guilders	
1.6215/25		Swiss francs	
40.15/20		Belgian francs	
6.4170/220		French francs	
1349.5/1350.5		Italian lire	
158.15/25		Japanese yen	
6.7675/7725		Swedish crowns	
7.3830/900		Norwegian crowns	
7.3050/100		Danish crowns	
One ounce of gold	398.90/399.40	U.S. dollars	

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Equities continued to firm throughout the session on strong institutional demand fuelled by Wall Street's recent record performance.

At 1423 GMT the FTSE 100 share index stood just 0.2 below its previous closing high of 1,717.6 reached on April 3 last year but the mixed opening on Wall Street Wednesday dampened market enthusiasm somewhat, dealers added.

"It's the most impressive days trading since big bang," one equity trader said. At 1530 GMT the FTSE 100 had gained a net 22.7 points to 1,713.4 while at 1500 GMT the FT 30 had added 16.6 points to 1,350.9.

Pharmaceutical stocks featured, with Fisons 26p higher at 561 and Glaxo 57p better at 1,149, both on brokers' recommendations. Reckitt and Colman added 17p to 895 in sympathy.

Major gainers included ICI, up 35p at 1,126, BAT 18p at 480, BASS 22p at 760, BPB Industries 16p at 559 and Tarmac 15p to 445. Blue Circle added 17p to 705 on speculation that Adelaide Steamship may increase its stake in the company.

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, JAN. 8, 1987

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Implement those new ideas that you have been considering by putting them into detailed and practical execution. Financial plans get successful attention today.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) A fine day to get all of your affairs better organized. Proceed without fear and be safe.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Make sure to get your health and appearance improved so that you can make your activities more successful.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Get in touch with successful advisors and gain the knowledge you need to prosper at a personal level.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) You can get good suggestions from your friends today. Utilize them wisely for fine results.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) A good day to be more active in business. Go to an influential person for a favor and get it easily.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 21) Your intuition is fine today. You can gain a better attitude that will bring you more success with others.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) You can make sales or purchases with or from those in the same line of work as you. Be happy today.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Know what it is that your associates desire and assist them in their needs. You will get reciprocal support.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) If you persevere in your endeavors, you can make this a profitable and satisfying Thursday.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) The amusements you desire should be practical. Be sure to do something thoughtful for your mate.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Study your abode and see how you can make it more attractive. Invite guests in tonight.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Be sure to reply to important letters. Be clever in making out statements. Precision is the key today.

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, JAN. 9, 1987

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Today is very good for meeting with those who have the power to grant you any materialistic favors. Don't forget to relax and unwind after a tense day.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Talk over with bankers how best to invest your holdings. After a lot of studying, don't be careless.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Contact your most prominent friends and gain their assistance where a personal matter is concerned.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Seek the assistance of those in positions of power to help you gain some personal aims.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Seek the assistance of those in positions of power to help you gain some personal aims.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Get busy on credit and business affairs. Stop hiding your fine personality. Keep away from expensive pleasures.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 21) Dig into new interests that can make life more interesting and profitable for you. Be diplomatic.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Go after some strong desires with your pal and they can be realized with relative ease. Relax tonight.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Get together with a partner and accomplish just about anything. Extend your activities.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You can add to your income by taking on a second job. Have a talk with co-workers and understand each other.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Get your finest talents to the attention of influential people. They can point you in the right direction.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Converse with him and come to a better understanding over finances. Be happy with friends tonight.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Get in touch with those who can best assist you in gaining your fondest ambitions. Be careful in travel.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he or she will catch the attention of prominent persons because of the excellent advanced ideas your progeny can grasp. Give a thorough education and add psychology to help this one in comprehending human nature. Your progeny will benefit from a proper diet.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Tourism to Israel drops by 13%

TEL AVIV (R) — Tourism to Israel dropped 13 per cent in 1986 compared with the previous year, Israeli tourism sources said Wednesday. Official figures showed that 1,101,000 tourists visited Israel in 1986, compared with 1,264,000 in 1985. The biggest drop was among tourists from North America, by far the biggest spenders. There were 44 per cent fewer tourists from the United States and 27 per cent fewer from Canada. Tourism from Europe dropped by three per cent but the number of tourists from Argentina doubled.

Lebanese fuel prices rise 60-100%

BEIRUT (R) — Fuel prices in Lebanon were increased by between 60 and 100 per cent Wednesday. Economy, Trade and Oil Minister Victor Kassis announced that each 20 litres of petrol will cost 190 instead of 115 pounds — an increase of about 70 per cent. Fuel oil will cost 162 instead of 105 pounds for each 20 litres — a rise of about 60 per cent. The price of butane gas has been increased by 100 per cent — 100 instead of 50 pounds for a cylinder containing 10 kilogrammes. No reason was given for the increases but they follow a deep slump of the pound which has lost more than 75 per cent over the past 12 months because of the persisting political instability. Fuel is among items subsidised by the treasury and the government has been complaining about serious shortage of income due to anarchy and militia rule.

U.S. car production declines by 4.4%

DETROIT (R) — The United States produced almost eight million cars in 1986, a 4.4 per cent decline from 1985, auto industry figures show. The decline was entirely due to lower production by the giant General Motors Corporation which laid off thousands of workers in the face of slowing sales and a slipping hold on the U.S. market. Despite the lower production of 7,83 million, dealers and manufacturers are expected to have record sales of about 16 million cars and trucks, eclipsing last year's record 15.72 million sales of domestic and imported models. Ford Motor Company and Chrysler Corporation showed an increased output in the figures. Analysts forecast that car production by the U.S. industry will ease further in 1987 as market demand eases and new cars imported from Korea, Mexico and Brazil become available.

Wage gap in S. Africa exceeds 300%

JOHANNESBURG (R) — White workers earned at least three times as much as blacks in several South African industries in 1986, according to government figures published Wednesday. The figures, confirming the trend of past years, show that whites in the motor industry earned average monthly salaries of 1,556 rand (\$71.6), compared with 384 rand (\$17.7) for blacks. White hotel employees earned an average 901 rand (\$4.14) against 263 rand (\$1.21) for blacks. The biggest gap was in the wholesale trade sector, where the monthly income for whites averaged 1,933 rand (\$88.9) and 413 rand (\$1.90) for blacks.

Newspaper printers begin strike in Israel

TEL AVIV (AP) — Printers of all the daily newspapers began a 48-hour strike Wednesday in support of wage claims, said union secretary-general Meir Goldstein. The walkout means that none of Israel's nine major dailies will appear Thursday or Friday, Goldstein said in a telephone interview. The strike was called by the newspaper press workers and was supported by the national union after publishers and printers failed to reach agreement on wage compensation for new computerised print technologies.

Cuba outlines austerity measures

MIAMI (AP) — The Cuban government has outlined price increases and sweeping cutbacks in food rations, gasoline and television programming, as well as an end to coffee breaks for workers, according to published reports. The Cuban populace was told in *Grauma*, the Communist Party newspaper, that the economic measures are needed to spur productivity, balance the budget and increase Cuba's reserves of hard currencies, the Miami News reported in Tuesday's editions. The announcement followed several speeches by President Fidel Castro in which he warned the country that economic hardships lie ahead. He also criticised productivity levels. President Castro, now in his 28th year in power, blames Cuba's trade woes on the low market price of sugar and oil, two of the island's main exports.

Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



W. Germany rejects French pressure to appreciate mark

BONN (R) — West Germany Wednesday ruled out a revaluation of the mark despite massive French pressure on Bonn to restore calm to Europe's foreign currency markets.

Economics Minister Martin Bangemann told reporters the West German currency was very strong but had an "appropriate value" within the European Monetary System (EMS) at the present time.

"There is no reason to revalue the mark," he said. Despite intervention by both the West German central bank, the Bundesbank, and the Bank of France Wednesday, the French franc and the Danish crown remained weak.

Further cooperation was required to prepare the 1987 budget and the need to rationalise spending had become urgent, he told the semi-official Al Ittihad newspaper.

He said he had told ministries to cancel all unnecessary expenditure from drafts of their individual 1987 budgets.

Sheikh Hamdan said after a cabinet session on Monday the 1987 budget was expected to be smaller than in 1986, when it was the lowest for in seven years.

As in the past four years, no money would be allocated for new projects.

In a federal decree issued Wednesday, President Zaid Ibn Sultan Al Nahyan said the government would operate on the basis of the 1986 budget until the 1987 budget was finalised.

Montly spending was approved at one-twelfth of the 1986 total, which was set at 14,023 billion dirhams (\$3.81 billion) last October after a 10-month delay.

The 1986 deficit was estimated at 1,186 billion dirhams (\$320 million).

Sheikh Hamdan said the delay in issuing last year's budget was caused by a decline in revenues in addition to deficits accumulated from previous years.

Economic sources said it had the benefit of cutting expenditure because ministries were confined to specific monthly spending.

WFC chief calls for more world equality in food policy

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP) — The chairman of the World Food Council (WFC) Tuesday called for an agreement among major food producers on a more balanced world food market.

"We are concerned about the disorder on the world food market," Chairman Henri Nallet told a news conference.

He was speaking after a meeting of the WFC's bureau in Brussels and talks with leaders of the European Community. WFC is a United Nations body.

"The situation is worsening," Mr. Nallet added. "since the trade conflict among big producers has eliminated smaller ones. Big northern producers have the technical and financial means to remain on the market by subsidising their exports, others do not have that capacity."

"This is not fair," the former French agriculture minister said. "Developing countries cannot sell anymore while they need foreign currency to reimburse their debt."

The figure has rocketed in

rupiah terms because of a 31 per

cent devaluation of the Indonesian currency last September and the strength of the Japanese yen and some European currencies.

President Suharto, who has

steered Indonesia towards stability and development over the past 20 years, said it was a matter of honour for Jakarta to repay its debts so that it could maintain the confidence of the international financial community.

"Precisely by honouring the obligation of debt-servicing, we gain the confidence of the world," the 65-year-old president

told a news conference.

Indonesia, South East Asia's leading oil exporter and a major world supplier of tin, rubber, coffee and palm oil, is being forced to rely more heavily on foreign aid and loans to make up for the dramatic slump in revenues from oil and commodities.

Announcing the budget for the coming financial year to parliament Tuesday, President Suharto said the amount allocated for foreign debt-servicing had jumped by 61 per cent to 6,760 billion rupiah (\$4.09 billion) — almost a third of the overall budget.

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Martin Bangemann

One senior dealer at a West German bank in New York said Tuesday night a five per cent currency adjustment, including a two per cent revaluation of the mark and a three per cent devaluation of the franc was already built into the market.

Mr. Ute Geipel, the chief economist at the U.S. Citibank in Frankfurt suggested Bonn was just delaying the inevitable until a general election in West Germany on Jan. 25.

Mr. Geipel said: "There will be a unilateral revaluation of the mark shortly after the election."

Under the rules of EMS, set up in 1979 to maintain currency stability in Europe, central banks are obliged to intervene on the markets when member currencies reach predetermined limits.

Mr. Bangemann said: "The Bundesbank was doing its duty in the context of the EMS and intervening to defend the French franc.

Economists say intervention is a short-term measure to calm currency moves and they believe monetary authorities alone cannot counter strong market trends in the long term.

Bonn's refusal to increase the value of the West German mark follows hard on the heels of Tuesday's announcement that the French would not devalue the franc.

However, foreign exchange dealers and economists say that some form of resignation within the EMS is now inevitable and predict a battle of wits between Paris and Bonn.

Economists say Bonn's centre-right government will be reluctant to revalue the mark before the elections in order not to anger the country's powerful conservative farmers, who would lose out to competitors from countries with weaker currencies.

Mr. Max Zurek, chief economist at the German Farmers' Association, has said a unilateral revaluation of the mark would draw protests from the agricultural community.

Misuari wants outsiders to monitor Filipino plebiscite

MANILA (R) — Muslim guerrilla leader Nur Misuari said Wednesday he would not allow the government to supervise a plebiscite on autonomy for the southern Philippines and hinted he wanted the vote monitored by outsiders.

The Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) chairman told Reuters by telephone from Saudi Arabia that he would renew his fight for secession in the south if peace talks with Manila broke down because of obstacles placed in the way of peace by MNLF opponents inside and outside the government.

"Will the United Nations willingly come to supervise the plebiscite? Are they (the Philippine government) going to allow a third party to supervise?" said Misuari, speaking from Jeddah.

"Certainly they (the government) won't allow the MNLF to conduct the plebiscite. Neither are we ready to allow the Philippine government to conduct it, knowing the sad experiences of the past," the 45-year-old rebel leader added.

Misuari was referring to charges of corrupt electoral practices under deposed President Ferdinand Marcos.

In talks last week in Saudi Arabia, the MNLF agreed with government representatives to discuss "full autonomy" for Mindanao, Basilan, Tawi-Tawi, Palawan and the Sulu Islands in return for the MNLF dropping its demand for independence.

Mr. Enrile said he doubted,

whether Mrs. Aquino would succeed in her peace talks with Communist rebels and predicted she would soon draw "her sword of war." He said this could happen even before a current 60-day ceasefire ends on Feb. 7.

Mr. Enrile, fired in November, has been travelling around the country urging people to reject a proposed constitution that would give Mrs. Aquino a six-year term.

Mr. Enrile said he learned from his trip to southern Mindanao last week that "a very large segment of the military organisation" in the area, including field commanders, was campaigning against the new charter.

A Philippine newspaper reported Wednesday that Communist rebels said the Soviet Union offered to give them money and weapons, but they rejected the aid because of conditions attached by the Soviets.

The Manila Bulletin said rebel officials on the Batangas peninsula disclosed the offer during a news conference Tuesday. The newspaper said the rebel officials refused to explain why they rejected the offer.

The newspaper's report identified the rebels as Javier Domingo of the National Democratic Front (NDF) and Ricardo Silvestre of the New People's Army (NPA).

"Had we accepted it, perhaps we could have attained our goal sooner than what our timetable had set for it," Domingo was quoted as saying.

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Pentagon: Stealth missile deployment plans under way

WASHINGTON (AP) — Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger has said the Pentagon was moving to deploy a radar-evading "Stealth" version of the U.S. cruise missile and that deployment of the Stealth bomber was on schedule for the early 1990s.

Mr. Weinberger said K.I. Sawyer U.S. Air Force Base near Marquette, Michigan, had been selected as the site for the first deployment of the Stealth missile, which is known formally as the Advanced Cruise Missile.

Pentagon spokesman Robert Sims said later that the new missile would begin arriving at the base by 1989, but that preparations for deployment of the new weapon would start within the year.

Mr. Weinberger, in an interview with several reporters, was asked about the bomber and missile programmes in the wake of Monday's submission to Congress of the Defence Department's fiscal 1988 budget proposal.

That budget disclosed the Pentagon would request \$89.3 million in fiscal 1988 to build two aircraft at Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri, for the first wing of Stealth bombers. That was the first indication provided by the Pentagon of a basing decision for the plane.

The advanced technology, or Stealth, bomber is an aircraft designed to avoid radar detection. Stealth is actually a team applied to a variety of technologies and designs that are combined to provide the radar-evading capability. They include such things as the use of a rounded shape, radar-absorbing materials on the wings and fuselage and engines "blended" into the fuselage.

Both the Stealth bomber and Stealth missile programmes are highly classified and the Pentagon in the past has done little more than acknowledge their existence. Published reports have indicated, however, the bomber resembles a flying wing and that limited production of the first model Stealth missile began in fiscal 1986.

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U.S. proposes arms sales to six countries

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. government on Tuesday proposed arms sales to six countries — Egypt, Spain, Greece, Turkey, England and China.

The Defence Department, in a formal statement of notification to Congress, said it was prepared to sell China radar and radio sets of a type used to locate hostile artillery units.

The transaction is valued at \$62 million "and will contribute to the foreign policy and national security of the United States by helping to improve the security of a friendly country," said the statement released at the Pentagon.

The sale, which will go forward unless Congress moves to block it within 30 days, would be only the third government-to-government arms deal negotiated by the two countries.

The first, involving \$98 million worth of technology and equipment to modernise Chinese artillery ammunition plants, was approved in the fall of 1985. The second, a \$550-million transaction involving new avionics equipment for jet fighters, was finalised last October.

The other sales announced on Tuesday also must clear Congress.

Egypt has been offered 50-M13 armoured personnel carriers for \$27 million and more than 50,000 155mm Howitzer projectiles for \$41 million. The sales "will not affect the basic military balance in the region," the Pentagon said.

Spain, a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, has been offered 80 Hiam missiles and associated spare parts and training support for \$42 million, the Pentagon said. The Hiam missile is a type carried by airforce and navy jets for use against enemy radar installations.

Spain is also being offered 20 Harpoon air-to-surface missiles and associated spare parts and training for \$26 million the Pentagon said.

Greece another NATO ally, is being offered four Phalanx gun systems for \$56 million. The Phalanx is an advanced, computer-controlled Gatling gun used by the navy to protect ships against low-flying cruise missiles.

Turkey, also a member of NATO, is being offered spare parts worth \$86 million for American-made airplanes — the C-130, F-4, F-5, F-104 and trainer planes — already in its inventory, the Pentagon said.

Britain, meanwhile, is being offered equipment to upgrade its Ocean Surveillance Information Centre in a deal valued at \$24 million, the Pentagon added.

Dissidents form new party to challenge Gandhi

NEW DELHI (AP) — Former associates of the late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi formed a new political party Tuesday to challenge the ruling Congress Party run by Mrs. Gandhi's son.

"We are the real Congress. What Rajiv Gandhi is leading is fake. He has cashed in and lived on Mrs. Gandhi's glory too long," said S.S. Mohapatra, leader of the New National Socialist Congress.

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